

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 9, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 7-10 and 12 are pending in this application, with claim 7 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed April 9, 2003, claims 7-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,460,855 (Andersson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,413,829 (Brown) and U.S. Patent No. 4,743,330 (Tillotson).

Independent claim 7 is directed to a self-adhesive woven glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet, which includes "a sheet of woven glass fiber fabric comprising woven strands and having a first side and a second side, at least said first side having raised points where said woven strands cross", and "an interrupted layer including a thermoplastic permanent adhesive adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric". Independent claim 7 further requires that "an amount and a viscosity of said thermoplastic permanent adhesive are designed for preventing the thermoplastic permanent adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric" and the thermoplastic permanent adhesive "allowing mounting of said glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet directly onto a wall substrate by said thermoplastic permanent adhesive".

Andersson fails to teach or suggest an interrupted layer including a thermoplastic permanent adhesive (or any other type of adhesive) adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric and an amount and a viscosity of the adhesive are designed for preventing the adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric, as recited in claim 1. Andersson describes a floor or wall covering

material which includes a substrate portion and a decorative layer (see col. 3, lines 27-30). Andersson further teaches that a barrier layer is located between the surface underlying the floor or wall covering and the decorative portion of the floor or wall covering (col. 4, lines 12-16). The purpose of the barrier layer is to inhibit the migration or diffusion of organic stainants from the surface of the underlying floor or wall into the decorative portion of the covering material (col. 2, lines 52-54). As stated by the Examiner, Andersson is silent regarding how the wall or floor covering is to be attached to the underlying surface and therefore relies on prior art knowledge for attaching the floor or wall coverings to the underlying surface.

The Examiner argues that the barrier layer is irrelevant to the rejection of the claims. However, case law (and the MPEP §2141.02) states that prior must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention. *W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*.. 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). The disclosure of Andersson as a whole teaches that the barrier layer protects the decorative layer from stains. Since the barrier layer protects the decorative layer, there is no motivation for designing the amount and viscosity of the adhesive to prevent penetration of the adhesive to the decorative layer.

The Examiner further states in the paragraph starting on page 3, line 14 of the Office Action that Andersson teaches the use of "any" wallpaper and that adhesives are by far the most commonly used method of applying wallpapers. Applicant respectfully submits that this statement is purely speculative because as stated above, Andersson is silent regarding the attachment method. Furthermore, traditional pastes are typically used as adhesives instead of permanent adhesives.

Brown fails to teach what Andersson lacks. Brown discloses a wallpaper with a pressure sensitive adhesive layer, a hydrophylic substrate layer, a decorative surface layer, and a

release surface (see col. 3, lines 9-15). Accordingly, Brown discloses the use of pressure sensitive adhesive. However, there is no teaching or suggestion that the pressure sensitive adhesive disclosed by Brown is applied as an interrupted layer adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric or that an amount and a viscosity of the adhesive are designed for preventing the adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric, as recited in claim 1. Brown discloses that the substrate layer is fibrous (see col. 3, line 47 to col. 5, line 28) but fails to disclose that the substrate is a woven fabric. Therefore, neither Andersson, Brown, nor the combination thereof teaches or suggests applied as an interrupted layer adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric or that an amount and a viscosity of the adhesive are designed for preventing the adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric, as recited in claim 1.

Tillotson fails to teach or suggest what Andersson and Brown lack. Tillotson relates to the manufacture of a carpet. The Examiner states that the teachings of Tillotson are combinable with Andersson, because Andersson teaches that carpets and wallpaper are equivalent. However, it is respectfully submitted that this general conclusion of Anderson is incorrect. The portion of Anderson referenced by the Examiner (col. 1, lines 10-30) states that a barrier layer can be applied to a wall covering or a floor covering. Just because the barrier layer is applicable to both, does not mean that wall coverings such as wallpaper are equivalent to floor coverings such as carpets. Rather, this portion of Andersson merely states that the teachings of Andersson, i.e., the barrier layer, are applicable to both floor and wall coverings.

Tillotson discloses the application of an adhesive between a carpet 12 and a secondary backing fabric 52 to form a laminated carpet structure 62 (col. 4, lines 27-32). As in any

carpet, the adhesive of Tillotson is solidified in the final product (col. 4, lines 50-58). Accordingly, Tillotson fails to teach or suggest a thermoplastic permanent adhesive "allowing mounting of said glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet directly onto a wall substrate by said thermoplastic permanent adhesive". The Examiner states that Tillotson is relied upon only to provide a teaching of applying a hot melt resin adhesive to crossover points of a fabric. While Tillotson does disclose this, the entire disclosure of Tillotson shows that the adhesive is used to hold two layers of a laminate and is therefore not an adhesive that is exposed on one side of the carpet laminate to mount the carpet laminate on an underlying surface. In contrast, the present invention recites an adhesive applied as an interrupted layer adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric, wherein "an amount and a viscosity of said thermoplastic permanent adhesive are designed for preventing the thermoplastic permanent adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric", the thermoplastic permanent adhesive "allowing mounting of said glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet directly onto a wall substrate by said thermoplastic permanent adhesive", as recited in independent claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable because this combination of limitations is not taught or suggest by Andersson in view of Brown and Tillotson.

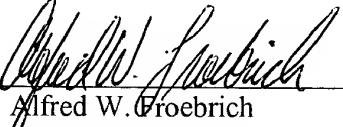
Dependent claims 8-10 and 12 are deemed allowable for the same reasons.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 9, 2003